

The Gospel According to Abraham, Part 3
Gen. 13:5-18

Getting Started

- ❖ Do you see yourself as an ambitious person? When have you been blessed by someone's ambition and when have you seen pain due to another's ambition?

Key Ideas for Discussion

1. A Picture of Godly Ambition (v.5-9)
 - A. Abraham's solution was incredibly generous and out of the norm for that era.
 - B. Abraham had three relationships (God, Lot, Finances/Business) and three options, but it was impossible for him to not "risk" at least one of the relationships with whatever choice he made
 - C. Why Abraham's ambition was Godly.
2. The Pitfall of Ungodly Ambition (v.10-13)
 - A. Ominous foreshadowing and significance of journeying eastward
 - B. Why Lot's ambition was ungodly.
The heart of every problem is the problem in the heart. Lot's heart was centered on wealth and worldly achievement, while Abraham wanted only to please the Lord.
(Warren Wiersbe)
 - C. The way ambition worked itself out in Lot's life (4 Act Tragedy)
 - D. How unchecked or ungodly ambition affects us.
 - E. The Gospel can restore those trapped by their ambition.
3. The Path to Righteous Ambition (v.14-18)
 - A. Abraham lifted his eyes and looked where God directed
 - B. Abraham lifted his feet and walked the entire land of Canaan.
 - C. Abraham lifted his heart and built an altar in worship to God.

Takeaway Truth: We avoid the destructiveness of unchecked ambition when our first and highest ambition is to worship God

Digging Deeper

- ❖ Revisit the sermon and sermon outline, read all of chapter 13 and answer the following:
 - Where did Abram go after leaving Egypt? What do Abram's actions say about his attitude toward God?
 - How did Abram's offer and Lot's choice reveal their attitudes toward wealth?
 - How did Abram set us a good example of how to deal with spiritual failure? How was his response different from that of Adam and Eve after they disobeyed in the Garden of Eden?
 - How did Lot make his decision, and what sins tempt us today in the same way? What practical measures could you take in your life to decrease the power of these sins?
 - How did Abram go about determining God's will? What two helps do we have today that he did not have, and how does that change the process of finding God's will for us?

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Apply It!

- ❖ God gradually revealed his great plan to Abram, bit by bit. How was Abram's experience of God so far like yours or different from yours?
- ❖ What stood out to you or spoke to you the most in this passage and sermon?
- ❖ Of the 3 steps in the "Path to Righteous Ambition" is there one of those three that is more difficult for you than another? If so, which one and why?
- ❖ What role do you think prayer and daily surrender of our lives to God can play in having a righteous form of ambition?
- ❖ Is there something you dream of doing for God and His Kingdom? If so what is it?

Think About It!

He [Abraham] pitched his tent from place to place as God led him, and he built his altar of witness and worship. The people in Sodom were proud of their affluence (Ezek. 16:49), but Abraham had spiritual wealth that they knew nothing about (John 4:31-34). He was walking in fellowship with God, and his heart was satisfied.

Satan wants to use circumstances, people, and things to tempt you and bring out the worst in you; but God also wants to use them to test you and bring out the best in you. Abraham failed the first two tests because he resorted to faith in man's wisdom instead of faith in God's Word. But he passed the third test with great distinction because he let God take control. "And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith" (1 John 5:4, NKJV).¹

NOTE: Study questions for this year's annual theme are derived either directly or indirectly from a number of sources. These Covenant Group studies are indebted to the works of Dr. John Walton, Dr. Derek Kidner, Dr. Bruce Waltke, Dr. James Boice, Dr. Ian Duguid, Dr. Warren Wiersbe, and Dr. Tim Keller.

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1991). *Be Obedient* (p. 30). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

WORSHIP RESOURCE

February 7, 2021 | Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

WORSHIP SONGS

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

Words by Francis of Assisi, 1225 / German Melody, 1623

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia, alleluia! Thou burning sun with golden beam, Thou silver moon with softer gleam,

O praise him, O praise him, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heaven along, O praise him, alleluia! Thou rising morn in praise rejoice, Ye lights of evening find a voice.

Let all things their creator bless, and worship him in humbleness, O praise him, alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, And praise the Spirit, three in one.

THE LION AND THE LAMB

Words and Music by Brenton Brown, Brian Johnson, and Leeland Mooring, 2015

He's coming on the clouds kings and kingdoms will bow down, And every chain will break as broken hearts declare His praise. For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Our God is the Lion the Lion of Judah, He's roaring with power and fighting our battles, and every knee will bow before Him.

Our God is the Lamb the Lamb that was slain, for the sins of the world His blood breaks the chains, and every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb, every knee will bow before Him.

So open up the gates make way before the King of kings. Our God who comes to save is here to set the captives free. For who can stop the Lord Almighty?

I WANT TO KNOW YOU

Words and Music by Michael Farren, Jonny Robinson, and Rich Thompson, 2016 / Based on lyrics from "In Jesus" by James Proctor

I've tried in vain a thousand ways my fears to quell, my hopes to raise, but what I need, Your word has said, is ever, only Jesus.

You died, You live, You reign, You plead; there's love in all Your words and deeds. This weary hearts finds all it needs in ever, only Jesus.

I want to know You, Jesus my Lord, King of the heavens, King of my soul. I trade my treasures and all my rewards, Jesus, to know You, then know You more.

Though some should curse me for Your name, I have no fear, I have no shame. You stand with me for all my days, my ever, only Jesus.

Like wave after wave on the ocean. Like all of the sand on the shore. Your beauty and glory are endless. O Jesus, I must know You more.

BEHOLD HIM

Words and Music by Paul Baloche and Mitch Wong, 2019

He who was before there was light, walked across the pages of time. He who made every living thing, behold Him. He who heard humanity's cry, left His throne to wake as a child. He became like the least of us, behold Him.

Jesus, Son of God, Messiah, the Lamb, the roaring Lion.

Oh, be still and behold Him. Jesus, Alpha and Omega, our God the risen Savior. Oh, be still and behold Him.

He who dined with sinners and saints, healed the blind, the lost and the lame, even now He is in our midst. Behold Him. He who chose a criminal's end, paid with blood to settle our debt, buried death as He rose to life, behold Him.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty. Jesus, you're my hope and stay.

I NEED THEE EVERY HOUR

Words by Annie S. Hawks and Robert Lowry, 1872
Music by Robert Lowry, 1872

I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord; no tender voice like Thine can peace afford.

*I need Thee, O I need Thee, every hour I need Thee!
O bless me now, my Savior I come to Thee.*

I need Thee every hour, stay Thou near by; temptations lose their pow'r when Thou art nigh.

I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain; come quickly and abide, or life is vain.

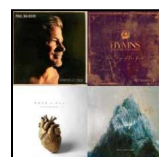
I need Thee every hour, Most Holy One; O make me Thine indeed, Thou blessed Son.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 150; Isaiah 57:1-13; Hebrews 12:1-6; John 7:37-46
MONDAY | Ps. 82; Isaiah 57:14-21; Galatians 6:11-18; Mark 9:30-41
TUESDAY | Ps. 102; Isaiah 58:1-12; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Mark 9:52-50
WEDNESDAY | Ps. 1; Isaiah 59:1-21; 2 Tim. 1:15-2:13; Mark 10:1-16
THURSDAY | Ps. 16; Isaiah 60:1-22; 2 Tim. 2:14-26; Mark 10:17-31
FRIDAY | Ps. 51; Isaiah 61:1-9; 2 Timothy 3:1-17; Mark 10:32-45
SATURDAY | Ps. 98; Isaiah 61:10-62:5; 2 Tim. 4:1-8; Mark 10:46-52

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

Lord Jesus, you are the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. You do not grow weary; your understanding is unsearchable. While on earth, you healed the sick, cast out demons, and proclaimed the good news of salvation. In our weariness, would you give us strength; in our weakness, would you make us strong. By your grace, help us to mount up with wings like eagles, diligent in our labor for the kingdom; intentional in sharing your love and mercy to those around us. This we ask in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.



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